“Talk to Him:”
PEDRO ALMODÓVAR

Professors of Spanish MARVIN D’LUGO and CAROL D’LUGO have just returned from Cuenca, Spain, where they attended the first international conference on the work of the Oscar-winning filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar.

Marvin delivered an invited paper entitled “Genealogía de las sórdidas comedias neo-surrealistas almodovarinas” (‘Genealogy of Almodóvar’s Sordid Neo-Surrealist Comedies’), a historical tracing of the origins and structure of Almodóvar’s work, which, as he says, derive from the tradition of “black” comedies of the 1950s.

The Spanish press has often argued that this director’s style is for foreign audiences, with little connection to Spanish arts. Marvin’s view is quite the opposite, as readers will discover in a book he is currently finishing on Almodóvar’s cinema, to be published by the University of Illinois Press.

The conference officially ended with a conversation between Almodóvar and seven of his actresses, including Geraldine Chaplin, Marisa Paredes, and Cecilia Roth. Photos of the D’Lugos with Pedro will be available soon on our website.

Professor Kaufmann's talk focused on the responses of students in a French lycée to these questions: "If you could have a conversation with President Bush, what would you say to him?" "Who is the American you admire the most?" "In which country, France or the U.S., do you think people of different cultures and backgrounds get along better?" "Do you think the American dream corresponds to a reality?" Worcester students gave their responses to the same questions.

STUDENTS TO STUDY IN CHINA

The 2004 CET program in Beijing has accepted two students of MINXIA LI, Instructor of Chinese. Congratulations to CALVIN W. KWONG and GREGORY M. DE GUNZBURG, who will leave for Beijing at the end of December.

ALUMNI/AE NOTES

JAMES DYMOND (German '01) is studying for an MBA in international marketing and management at the University of Pforzheim.

KIMBERLY EZOLD (German '02) is a financial advisor for American Express here in Worcester.

WILSON AYBAR (2000) teaches Spanish at the Burncoat Middle School and is swimming coach at both Clark and Holy Cross College.

TECH NOTES

Students of foreign languages have been enjoying the convenience of online files via Blackboard. Digital files of materials for French in Action, Puntos de Partida, Integrated Chinese, and Yookoso are available for students via the Blackboard sites for Spanish 101, Japanese 101, Chinese 101, and French 101. Constance Montross, Anthony Helm and the faculty of the Department will work to expand this "virtual" language lab. Patrons may also complete work using the more traditional analog technology at the Language Arts Resource Center.

FACULTY NOTES

On December 2nd, Dorothy Kaufmann gave a presentation for the Humanities Scholars Collaborative, an initiative that brings together over a hundred students from Worcester area high schools with three college faculty members.

This year the faculty members were from Clark and the theme was “America Seen from Abroad.”
For patrons wishing to brush up on Italian or view a number of recently acquired foreign videos/DVD's, the Language Arts Resource Center has added numerous titles to its collection. A sampling of these new holdings:

- Life is All You Get / Das Lieben ist eine Baustelle
- Run Lola Run
- The Grand Illusion
- The Umbrellas of Cherbourg
- Café au Lait
- Hiroshima, Mon Amour
- Le Père Noel est une Ordure
- Ikiru
- Daimyo VCD
- L’amour a la française
- Afrique dominée, Afrique liberée
- Les Beurettes
- Miel Para Oshun/ Honey For Oshun
- Romero
- El Cochecito
- Mambo Mouth
- Memoires d’Immigrés
- Burnt by the Sun
- Lo Mejor de Danny
- Molière, une vie pour le théâtre
- Nuevos Destinos
- Learn German Now
- Spanish for Everyone
- Instant Immersion Language Lab
- Who is Oscar Lake?
- Learn to Speak Spanish
- Triple Play Plus Spanish
- Ouvertures: Cours intermédiaire de français
- Writing Assistant for Spanish Atajo 3.0

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